



Ronald Searle cartoon, 1939

c.27.9: Cambridge CONFERENCES Chronicle

Conferences & meetings

headlines

1894

Ancient Order of Foresters High Court meeting {NI.1.3}

1900

1904 01 21

Mammoth Show Society formed, p4

1904 08 01

Mammoth Show, p3

1904 08 18

Members of the British Association meeting in Cambridge witnessed the making of scientific instruments, the process of lithography, the making of cement and the method of cleaning the interiors of buildings by the Eastern Counties Vacuum Cleaner Company. By the operation of their machinery the whole of the dust contained in a building, saturating its carpets, clinging to inaccessible portions of its furniture and permeating its curtains and draperies, is removed entirely. At present expense is an obstacle but the company intends to institute a method by which a series of rooms can be cleaned at one time, minimising the expense of conveying machinery backwards and forwards. Medical men

taking part in the present scientific pilgrimage will find themselves well rewarded by a visit to the exhibition.

1904 08 20

The visit of the British Association has affected Cambridge. Hotels and tradesmen – particularly butchers and confectioners – are busy, public servants are feeling the pressure, notably pressmen, postal officials and police. Almost every important daily paper has a special representative and to cope with the labours of these journalists four Wheatstone telegraphic machines have been installed at the Post Office. 04 08 20

1904 08 25

The 1904 meeting of the British Association is over, our distinguished visitors have departed from our midst, and we are settling quietly down to the dreary dullness of what remains of the Long Vacation. It has been a memorable week. Considered numerically and socially the meeting has been one of the most successful they have ever held. In no other town could greater hospitality have been offered than that displayed in Cambridge; all the important buildings – municipal and university were placed at their disposal. Garden parties and receptions were as plentiful and bounteous as even the most frivolous of savants could desire. Cambridge Daily News runs out of copies as people write for issues containing reports of speeches, the Prime Minister attends, “it livens up the Long Vacation” the paper comments 04 08 25

1905 08 24

The Library Association Conference in Cambridge discussed Sunday opening. To believe opponents Sunday was a season of celestial peace where only the sound of church bells and the hymns of devout worshippers broke the sacred silence. By opening libraries were doing a noble work in providing young men with a place to read periodicals or great fiction. But others said Sunday opening had failed because the average working man did not want to go there. It involved extra expenditure which would be better devoted to new books. 05 08 24 & 24a

1907 08 12

Esperanto has seized Cambridge like a raging fever. Genuine and spurious Esperanto fills the air as the autolycus of the gutter shouts unintelligent jargon to a street comrade and calls it Esperanto. But when a picturesque figure from the Swiss Canton appeared in the street the impudence of the street Arab was silenced. He was impressed by the tight green breeches and head capped by genuine Alpine hat. A Turk and Indians in national costume add considerably to the effect of this new kind of circus. 07 08 12a

1907 08 16

The Cambridge Police Athletic Society festival was attended by a large crowd, including many Esperantists. Dr Zamenhof presented an Esperanto Cup for the policeman who has performed the most efficient ambulance work to Sergt Gates for his action in saving the life of a man who had taken poison. 07 08 16

1907 08 17

All other events in Cambridge have been dwarfed in comparison with the third International Esperanto Congress which has brought money into the town when trade was at its lowest ebb. It was hoped the University might have bestowed an honorary degree upon Dr Zamenhof, the Warsaw genius, but apart from a formal reception at the Fitzwilliam Museum it has generally stood aloof from the movement. 07 08 17a

1908 08 07

Mammoth Show weather will soon be a synonym for a cloudless sky and a balmy atmosphere. There have been five of these huge exhibitions on successive August Bank Holidays attracting thousands of visitors to Midsummer Common and discouraging Cambridge residents from scampering off to other

places. There were competitions for dogs, poultry, cage birds and fancy rats together with athletics and motor cycle races. CEN 08 08 07

## **1910**

1910 07 29

Cambridge Bank Holiday Mammoth Show in aid of Addenbrooke's Hospital. 620 dog entries. The Horticultural Section is tremendous. Splendid array of cats. Fine bee and honey show. Wonderful sports entry. 17 motor riders including Martin the world's record holder and Dayrell the flying kilometre and mile champion at Brooklands. Exhibition of the 'Wallbro' Aeroplane fitted with engine complete but owing to lack of space and possible danger to the public a flight cannot be permitted. Thurston's electric bioscope. Firework Display – advert 10 07 29b & 29d

1910 08 05

The attendance at the Mammoth Show on Bank Holiday was a record one. The triple ring of seats around the sports ground was occupied by a close-packed mass of humanity and behind them spectators stood six or seven deep. The grand stands by the river, capable of accommodating 2,000 persons, were filled to capacity while the sloping bank near the Victoria Bridge was also black with people. And outside the ring the exhibition tents, refreshment booths, band enclosure and the fair ground, where the great roundabouts whirled and spun, were crowded with sightseers. 10 08 05 & a

1910 09 30 CWN

Signal success has attended the Cambridge Jubilee Church Congress. Fifty years ago when a few ardent Churchmen met together in the Hall of King's College, public interest in their proceedings was practically non-existent. Since then great changes of thought have taken place and this week three thousand members of Congress together with an Archbishop and 28 Bishops have attended. 10 09 30 & a 13 05 11 p7 CIP

1913 08 08

July and August used to be the quietest months of the year in Cambridge. But now they are regarded as months for conferences and hotels, lodging houses and tradesmen are reaping the benefit. Last week it was the Institution of Mechanical Engineers for their summer meeting, now the British Dental Association. Those who arrange the programmes always combine business with pleasure in a delightful way and invariable one of the first items is a Reception on behalf of the Town and University. Cambridge is always ready to welcome strangers and has raised the reception of conferences to a fine art 13 08 08 p06 CIP

1914 08 28

The Cambridge Summer Meeting concluded with an enjoyable social meeting. The attendance was not large, many of the students having been compelled to leave prematurely because of the war, while some are unable to return to their own countries. Hospitality for these unfortunate students is being kindly provided by Cambridge friends. 14 08 28

1914 10 23

When the war broke out a number of German women were in Cambridge for the University Extension Course. One of them has described her experiences in the 'Cologne Gazette' which is strictly anti-English. She says that they had been cut off from their families and were without money. They were taken into families who helped them, raised funds, took them to the station and arranged for their journey home. They were treated courteously in every respect. 14 10 23

1915 09 03

Suffragette summer school, Bertrand Russell lectures

1918 07 31

J.W. Jacob resigns as Guildhall hall keeper, reminisces about conferences – 18 07 31d

## **1920**

1920 03 10

Royal Show. It is pleasing to notice the enthusiastic manner in which the Mayor (Councillor G. P Hawkins), supported by an active sub-committee of the Borough Council, and other co-opted members are proceeding with the preliminary arrangements for the Cambridge "Royal" show. It has been decided that the Eastern Counties Farmers' Association Ltd., and Messrs. Gautrey and Sons (Cottenham) should supply the grass seed mixtures which it is necessary to sow on about 103 acres of the Trinity College Farm, situate between the line on the London and North Western Railway and Trumpington Road. The Committee desire to acknowledge the generosity of the Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity College in providing such an excellent site for the show, and to express their appreciation of the personal efforts of their agents (Messrs. Bidwell and Sons) and the tenants Messrs. Arnold Bros, and Mr. G. Duke to facilitate the work of the sub-committee in sowing the grass seeds, and carrying out the necessary preliminary arrangements to meet the requirements of the Royal Agricultural Society, The Hon. Treasurers report that in response to the first appeal for contributions to the Local Fund, the sum of £900 has been promised.

1920 05 12

Mammoth Show abandoned due prohibitive expense – 20 05 12a

1920 07 03

The first great conference since 1914 has been eminently successful, receptions and visitors have enjoyed privilege of taking meals in colleges; not since Darwin Centenary of 1909 has there been such a brilliant display of colour in the streets when guests hurrying to events. 1,000 doctors from around world attended the British Medical Association conference - CDN 20 07 03

1921 07 20

Catholic Bible Congress – 21 07 20b

1922 06 28 c

The great week to which we have all looked forward so eagerly and for which such extensive preparations have been made, will shortly be upon us. The Royal Show promises to be one of outstanding importance. This will be the third visit of the Show to Cambridge. It is probably true to say that in no other country in the world is there to be found a show of anything like the same magnitude as that which will be seen on the Trumpington-road ground.

1922 07 03

A glance at the huge entries in all sections of the Royal Show will give one some idea of the heavy burden imposed on the Railway Company, and the colossal task of arranging for the distribution of traffic. The G.E.R. has built unloading docks situated at the Trumpington signal-box on the Long-road, Cambridge, where there is also another entrance to the Show ground. The work of unloading machinery and materials has been in progress since May 25th and considerably more than 2,000 tons will have been handled before the closing date for delivery. The intensive period will be when the livestock are received. About sixty special trains have been booked to arrive commencing at 3.40am on Saturday morning.

1922 07 06

The great agricultural city on the Trumpington-road (the Royal Show) is in full blast today - in more senses than one. A stiff south-westerly gale had been sweeping over the show ground for the greater part of last night and it continued with unabated strength during the day. The tents and shedding for the most part withstood the gale remarkably well but a dozen of the larger structure were blown down wholly or in part and the Mayor's tent was levelled to the ground. In the latter a man was sleeping but escaped unhurt, although the circumstances gave rise to an erroneous rumour that a man had been killed

1922 07 08

Anyone who has taken any note of the motor traffic in and out of Cambridge during Royal Show week cannot fail to have been impressed with its volume, and the great number of people who have been conveyed to and from the show by this means. Nothing that has hitherto occurred at Cambridge has served to show so clearly what a factor the motor vehicle has become in the life of the nation. Many visitors who a few years ago would have stayed in the town and come and gone without spending a penny outside the show ground

1922 08 05

The return of the Cambridge Mammoth Show to its old time variety and importance will recall to many minds the last occasion of its so presenting itself to the public. The gloom which rested over the Bank Holiday and show in 1914 will never be forgotten by those who experienced it. The megaphone calls in all parts of the ground for postmen to repair to their duty at once told the tale that war was regarded as inevitable, and that the mobilisation notices were to go out. On the following Friday Cambridge suddenly found itself an armed camp, through the arrival on mobilisation of the Sixth Division. One remembers the sight of the humble little shopkeepers on Newmarket-road coming out to greet the tired artillerymen and make offerings of fruit, sweets and cigarettes and the great wave of united purpose and offer of service which swept over Cambridge.

1922 08 05

The Summer Meeting is proving a gratifying success, and is in every way the best that has been held since that memorable meeting of 1914 when the war caught both the students and the Syndics unaware, and there was great trouble in repatriating some of the foreigners who had come to Cambridge for the meeting. This year once again there is a good sprinkling of foreign students, who seem to be thoroughly enjoying themselves. The students, too, include a number of working men from the North, who have been most regular and attentive at the lectures on Control in Industry, but a trifle dogmatic in the discussion

1922 08 12

The success of the Summer Meeting demonstrates once again the appreciation and possibilities of Cambridge as a holiday centre and yet Cambridge appears to be as indifferent as ever to its opportunities. Every person who has this experience is an advertisement for Cambridge, but it is an advertisement which ought to be supplemented by other kinds of publicity, the sort of propaganda which every progressive town makes use of these days. Money spent in this way would be money well spent - Table Talk 22 08 12

1924 08 05

A huge crowd witness Cambridge Mammoth Show events. The Rodeo displays, which were expected to be a great attraction, were disappointing. The only part of the programme that created any real enthusiasm were the steer riding, steer wrestling from an automobile and broncho riding. Montana Bob, the world's champion steer rider was the chief performer. He had no easy task in overtaking the steer and even when he had done so he had considerable difficulty in bringing it to the ground. In doing so the steer trod on his arm but he was in sufficiently good form to ride the bucking broncho a few minutes afterwards

1925 08

300 foreign students assemble for vacation course [2.1]

1926 04 21

Cambridge Mammoth Show Society expressed indignation at the council for "abruptly refusing" the use of part of Midsummer Common on August Bank Holiday for the first time in 22 years. It cost £700 to maintain the racing track but it was no use unless they raced upon it. The council had refused permission to the only society who could afford to spend money in putting a hoarding around the

track and ensure gate money. They obviously did not desire over 20,000 people should enjoy themselves on Jesus Green.

1926 05 27

Cambridge councillors agreed to allow the Mammoth Show Society to use part of Jesus Green on August Bank Holiday, on the understanding it is the last occasion they will be permitted to use it. No roundabouts are to be allowed on to the show ground. It was amazing that when ratepayers' money had been spent in laying out one of the finest recreation grounds anything should be permitted which would plough it up again. The Mammoth Show Committee seemed to be trying to convince the public that the council were trying to deprive them of a show. It had got bigger than a town of this size need for a single day

1926 08 09

A Country Dance party on Christ's Pieces, organised by the English Folk Dance Society who are holding a Summer School in Cambridge, attracted a large audience. The party comprised some 500 dancers from America and all parts of England whose dances such as "Rufty Tufty", "Newcastle" and "Sellenger's Round" took one as far back as 600 years. The natural and care-free movements were a pleasant relief from the Bunny Hug, Cakewalk and Charleston.

1926 08 21

Dear Sir – Do you think you could use your influence to get August and September kept free from holidaymakers and visitors to Cambridge. Landladies and most traders could do with the rest & business premises require internal cleaning and lime-washing which cannot be done while going full speed. The students hang on so long now during vacations, and the position is not as it used to be – A Trader. No one would be more pleased than journalists if conferences came a little less thickly, but the presence of hundreds of delegates presumably means benefit to some people and a big effort has been made in recent years to advertise Cambridge as a holiday resort to help tradesmen in the "lean time".

1927 07 09

The Long Vacation promises to be as full as ever of conferences, congresses, summer schools and the like. It is sometimes said these conferences cause a good deal of distraction to residents in Cambridge but they bring trade to the town and give an immense amount of pleasure, and perhaps, edification, to those who confer in the pleasant surroundings of Cambridge. 27 07 09 [1.3]

1927 06 22

Mammoth Show wound up, p6

1928 04 11

National Union of Teachers conference

1928 07 28

A great cosmopolitan army has invaded and captured Cambridge. It is no new thing this descent by the legions from overseas but probably never before have they been drawn from so many nations or corners of the world. The 'Backs' heard such a murmuring of strange tongues as would have puzzled the most expert linguist. One reason was the International Geographical Congress attended by members of fifty nations, but ever since the 'Long Vac' started foreign visitors have poured into Cambridge, nearly all armed with cameras and a determination not to miss anything. They saw the river girl – and her flannelled companion – brought out by the heat wave; she was there at the punt pole with her light bright frock, so cool, so self-possessed and efficient, and even in this heat – no shiny noses.

1929 04 03

Advertising Cambridge – Chamber of Commerce – pictorial posters issued, illustrated guides; more conferences wanted

1929 08 23

Adult education world conference, p6

## **1930**

1930 03 01

History was made on Parker's Piece, Cambridge, when thousands of farmers and farm workers attended a mass demonstration. The meeting was originally intended to bring together workers in East Anglia but interest had become so wide that nearly all the agricultural counties in England were represented. They passed a resolution protesting against the increase in unemployment amongst unless effective steps are at once taken then nothing but calamity faces the industry. Visitors arrived by train, car, motor coach and bicycle, the ordinary parking facilities were quite inadequate and cars were parked around Parker's Piece itself and along Victoria Avenue. More than an hour before the start crowds assembled in front of the platform of motor lorries covered with a Union Jack and fitted with a battery of amplifiers. They whiled away the time listening to the Railway Band and broke into song when they played 'Farmer's Boy'. 30 03 01a-d

1931 03 27

Rotary clubs conference at Cambridge. 31 03 27 j

1931 09 18

An International Illuminations Congress opened at Cambridge Guildhall. The Mayor said there had been no proposals to floodlight the front of the building – it is not of the finest. But the front of the Dorothy Restaurant and the Fitzwilliam Museum were lit. Floodlights might be used in recreation grounds to allow sport at night and people with nice gardens might like to enjoy their beauty under new conditions. 31 09 18g

1936 07 29

The Fellowship of Reconciliation, a peace movement born in Cambridge during the dark days of 1914 was founded by people united in the conviction that the way of war could not be the way of Christ for righting wrongs and had now spread to many countries. Some 250 people from Germany, France, Italy, Bulgaria and Belgium together with the USA, Japan and the Argentine are attending a conference at Selwyn College on 'Christ: the Peace of the World'. 36 07 29b

1936 08 01

Various conferences have been the principal means of bringing visitors to Cambridge and when one meeting disbanded over the weekend at least two others were in process of starting. One was the International Conference of the Fellowship of Reconciliation when representatives from nineteen countries met at the Guildhall. The University Summer School on 'Tudor England' includes papers on Cambridge and Cambridgeshire 36 08 01

1936 09 10

National Conference of Friendly Societies held at Cambridge Guildhall – 36 09 10 & 12

1938 08 18

Nearly 3,000 scientists gathered in Cambridge for the inaugural meeting of British Association for the Advancement of Science held in the Regal Cinema. It last met here in 1904 38 08 18a

1937 06 19

A conference delegate described his college room: "It was well lighted, but the walls were covered with a chilly blue 'distemper'. The grate had a dreadful purple plaque surround with a horrid mantelpiece and neither the carpet nor tablecloth was clean. As for the bedroom, few servants would have tolerated its meanness; three things were cracked or broken. For closet or bath a man had to go out and round the quad, through a passage and some distance further to a huddle of buildings where

baths, w.c.s and urinal were all ill-kept. It is doubtful if the taps had been cleaned since they were put in". 37 06 19

1937 12 04

Cambridge was a prosperous town but much of the trade depended upon the students and members of the University. The colleges are becoming self-contained so the need for lodgings was drying up. On Sunday it is like walking along the streets of a lost city with the shop fronts in darkness. Cambridge should appoint a publicity agent to attract visitors and conferences, said Mayor, Ald Briggs. A great deal of progress is due to the two or three large light industries who have made their home here and it needs more 37 12 04 & a

1938 07 18

The Spanish people were fighting our battle & the British Government should take strong measures, a Conference on Spain in the Cambridge Masonic Hall was told. If Franco were to win as the pawn of Mussolini and Hitler another European war would be much closer. Meanwhile a service of prayer on behalf of religious persecution in Germany was held at the Synagogue in Thompson's Lane. Cambridge Refugee Committee exists to help all German and Austrian refugees and would be pleased to receive gifts of money 38 07 18 & a

1939 02 27

Arab delegation from Pakistan conference visit Cambridge – 39 02 27b

1939 06 17

Cartoon about summer conferences in Cambridge by Ronald Searle – 39 06 17b

1939 07 22

The new Cambridge Guildhall will be opened on October 9th by the Earl of Derby. The grand staircase is much more imposing than the old one, the new small room, complete with carpet, will be very convenient and the large hall improved though it is not nearly large enough for conferences, political mass meetings or big musical enterprises. The new Council chamber also seems on the small side and the aldermanic bench has been considerably shortened. 39 07 22b

1939 08 07

Czechs rose to their feet and cried 'Long Live Czechoslovakia' when ex-president Dr Eduard Benes broke his silence to address the Liberal Summer School at Cambridge. Special precautions had been taken against demonstrations. He told the crowded audience that democracy would be victorious. He analysed the background of 'a Duce and a Fuehrer'. They were persons of adventurous character, ambitious, emotional and amoral. Such regimes finished in catastrophe, war and revolution, he said. 39 08 07

## **1940**

1946 03 13

Bull College closing. 140 students have left mark all over the University, members of various colleges during Michaelmas term but because of overcrowding this term moved to billets formerly occupied by War Office. Studied under barrack-room conditions. Played sports and one elected president Union Society – 46 03 13a

1946 08 21

Dorothy L. Sayers speaks to Italian Summer School – 46 08 21

1947 07 01

Summer school for prisoners of war, p5

1947 07 14



Homes specially intended for old people should be in towns rather than in the country said Lord Amulree in addressing the Woman Public Health Officers' Association Summer school in Cambridge. It was a great advantage to have the home in a town, he said. For a large majority of people a home in the country did not work at all. "Most of our population are townspeople and also, when they are growing old, their interests become rather contracted. Old people do enjoy calling on their friends' houses. They like to go to the local pub or to the pictures, and if they cannot do that they like to sit in the window and watch other people going to the pub and to the cinema"

1948 07 03

The annual dinner of the British Medical Association Conference was easily the largest function of its kind that has been seen in Cambridge since the outbreak of the war. The company in the Dorothy ballroom numbered 420 and I don't think it would have been humanly possible to get another dozen in. Mr George Hawkins told me that once before the Dorothy had 464 at a Builder's Federation but this was only rendered possible by having an overflow in the foyer adjoining the ballroom. Such a dinner means elaborate arrangements over a long period beforehand. It is definitely not the sort of function that can be undertaken at a moment's notice

1948 08 27

The townsman's urge to escape to the countryside should be encouraged contended Mr Geoffrey Clark at the Town and Country Planning Summer School at Cambridge. Undoubtedly the most important aspect of country life was the development of agriculture but the holiday interest can be satisfied by the provision of certain facilities such as hostels, camps, eating places and well-defined footpaths. Villages must have a detailed plan to deal with the addition accommodation which will be required

1949 06 07

Cambridge county agricultural show fully lived up to its well-earned reputation of being one of the best one-day events of its kind in the country. The show covered 45 acres of ground at Trumpington that will form part of the site for the Royal Show in 1951 and can with truth be described as a "dress rehearsal" for the country's premier agricultural event. Banker's row, smart caravan banking establishments – emphasised the fact that this was a business occasion. There was an unusual machinery demonstration where Messrs Sindall, public works contractors, had several giant bulldozers and excavators working in a pit.

## **1950**

1951 07 05

The Queen visited the Royal Show; her route took her through Grantchester where villagers welcomed the Royal car with a number of Union Jacks which hung from houses and hedgerows, and even the petrol pumps of a garage. Princess Margaret travelled as far as Baldock where she turned back because she had developed a bad headache. The town clerk's daughter, Rosalind Swift, who was to have presented Princess Margaret with a bouquet, handed it to the Queen who said she would see that it reached the princess. Obtaining one of the best views was a small patient from Addenbrooke's Hospital, Terence Harley who has unfortunately lost his hearing and the Queen's words to him were written down by his nurse. & 6<sup>th</sup> p7

1951 07 07

The Royal Show at Trumpington came to an end with the total paid attendance of 131,333. The business done by stand holders has been most encouraging, one exhibitor said that on the first day he had taken orders to the value of £100,000. Even before the showground had closed work had begun on dismantling some of the stands. The steady flow of private cars from the car parks was interspersed with cattle lorries, horse boxes and commercial vehicles – a sign of the end of the year's work which goes into a Royal Show.

1951 07 13

The Royal Show brought considerable activity at Marshall's airport when an average of a dozen or more charter planes landed daily. Most of them were Rapides. The longest flight was from Prestwick, some 600 miles distant. The aviation side was represented on the stand of Pest Control Ltd; one of their Hiller 360 helicopters, fitted for spraying, rested on top of their stand. It was flown to the ground and landed without difficulty on the small platform

1956 05 23

Cambridgeshire Agricultural Society was formed in 1863 and held its first show in a field between St Paul's Church and Station Road, Cambridge. Today the County Show requires 70 acres of land with covered accommodation for stock, displays and catering to cope with an attendance of some 20,000 people a day. Apart from 1924 when there was an outbreak of foot and mouth disease it has been held every year except during the wars and when the Royal Show was held in Cambridge in 1894, 1922 and 1951. It is a shop window for agriculture and enables the farmer to keep abreast of modern developments in mechanisation. 56 05 23a

1957 08 14

Scouts from 84 parts of the world attended an International Conference in Cambridge, following the World Jubilee Jamboree. The bright blue caps from Finland, flowing white kaffiyeh and agae from Lebanon, broad hats from Mexico and the red tarbouch from Morocco were a colourful sight in the Guildhall where they were welcomed by the Mayor, Councillor B. White. 57 08 14a & 17

1957 08 31

A four-storey hostel for Clare College between the Shire Hall mound and Chesterton Road will provide the most modern accommodation in the University. Each of the 40 students will have his own bed-sitting room with adjoining washroom and clothes cupboards and central blocks of bathrooms and w.c.s. During vacations it will be used by delegates attending conferences. When the proposed Spine Relief Road is constructed the North side will face an up-to-date motorway. 57 08 31c & d

## **1960**

1960 07 05

There was a damp welcome for early visitors to the Royal Show at Trumpington. But those who ventured out stared at the sheep, peered at the pigs and commented on the cattle and horses being paraded in the Grand Ring. In the Demonstration Area six red hot forges, each manned by two blacksmiths, were busy fitting horses with new shoes. One of the strangest sights was of farmers standing in the pouring rain watching demonstrations of artificial irrigation machines pumping gallons of water on grass already soaked by overnight rain. 60 07 05

1961 07 05

A visitor to the Royal Show asked if he could park on the playing field of Fawcett School in Alpha Terrace, Trumpington, less than a mile from the showground. But the headmaster told him he could not. So he climbed back into the cockpit of his plane and took off with a 30 yard run. The machine had circled low before landing and Mr F.N. Walker thought it had made a forced landing. But the pilot, who was wearing a Royal Society member's badge, jumped down and asked if he could leave the plane there while he went to the Show. 61 07 05

1961 07 06

Queen Mother visits Royal Show by helicopter – 61 07 06

1961 12 01

Harper House in Portugal Place houses 10,000 books devoted to the British Empire. It started in 1919 with informal tea parties at which students met for cultural discussions. By 1921 these had become so popular that 'Cambridge University International Teas' and conferences were started. In 1940 Mrs Irene Harper formed the Birdwood Club open to British children whose families were 'not pacifists' and had some connection with the armed forces. The postwar years which produced a Motherland

'bewitched, bothered and bewildered about the Common Market' have thinned the ranks of the membership 61 12 01 & a

1962 06 25

University plans for the future of Cambridge envisage that in the Lion Yard there would be a new hall for conferences, concerts and all kinds of music with a new library, small shops, cafes and homes for 300 people. A new regional shopping centre in City Road would be free of all vehicular traffic and there could be more homes on the site than before. The housing areas which are close to the centre are also the oldest and many are in need of redevelopment. Already 4,000 people have had to leave since 1950 but the University wants to see at least as many living in these areas as were there ten years go. 62 06 25

1967 03 31

International Bilderberg Conference attended by 90 leading politicians, businessmen, bankers and publishers re technological gap between America & Europe at St John's College – 67 03 31, 67 04 01, 67 04 03

## **1970**

1974 10 05

A £2 million plan for converting the old Cambridge corn exchange into a multi-purpose concert hall was accepted by the City Amenities Committee. An early warning of stormy times ahead was given by Coun. Peter Cowell who said: "There is bound to be a lot of opposition". In their report the architects claim that "not only Cambridge but England as a whole will gain a concert hall of potentially international stature which could attract the finest musical talent". They suggest the reshaped building could hold up to 1500 people and would also be ideal for events such as boxing, wrestling, operas, plays, exhibitions and conferences.

1977 08 03

Cambridge's £3 million concert and conference hall that never was began with a £2 million promise to pay for the conversion of the Corn Exchange. But that promise, made in 1974 was short-lived. Mr David Robinson decided that the Corn Exchange was ugly and should be pulled down. Instead he favoured a purpose-built concert and conference hall on the Downing Street end of the Lion Yard complex. The man at the centre of those protracted negotiations was Coun Jack Warren who told him it was a listed building and could not be pulled down but he pooh-poohed this. In October 1976 Mr Robinson wrote to say it would be impossible for him to provide the money, and then gave another £7 to Robinson College.

1977 10 15

Prime Minister, Jim Callaghan, arrived in Cambridge to address a Labour Party Conference in the Guildhall and talk to the Fabian Society in the Union Society building. Leaders of the city's Sidewalk Surfers skateboarding group waiting outside got no promises of support for their skateboard rink campaign. Over lunch local Labour Party leaders – including Mrs Janet Jones talked of next year's rate support grant settlement for the county. In his speech Mr Callaghan welcomed President Carter's willingness to reduce nuclear weapons and said he sought a comprehensive ban on nuclear explosions

1978 12 06

The increasing use of Cambridge colleges as conference centres may result in irreparable damage to life in the University, dons have warned. Studious undergraduates are unable to remain in residence over the vacation, opulent undergraduates are forced to remove objects from their shelves and dons and graduates find their work disturbed by riotous assemblies of exuberant conferees. But the real danger is that colleges may think of themselves as conference centres first and colleges second. This follows the installation at Trinity College of bed sitting rooms with integral bathrooms rather than communal facilities and the construction of a conference centre at New Hall. 78 12 06

1979 07

Top-level conference on Ireland [3.2]

1979 07 05

Prime Minister in secret law & order conference

## **1980**

1980 03 29

A big security operation surrounded Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, when they flew into Cambridge to attend the 30th Anglo-German Conference which is being held in the city. Their two helicopters landed within minutes of each other on the lawns of Trinity College and the Queen's Flight fire service stood by in case of emergency. They were then whisked to the dinner in a heavily-guarded police convoy 80 03 29

1980 11 12

Letting university rooms and facilities during the vacation has grown from a profitable sideline into a virtual necessity. Next year it will bring in £2 million to colleges such as Robinson which was designed with conferences in mind. Previously colleges would send their staff away to the coast during the vacations where they would work in hotels but now they keep them on to help with corporate catering. At prices averaging £16 a day there is a great demand for the 2,500 beds the colleges can muster either in the historic beauty of King's or the modern facilities of Churchill 80 11 12d

1984 09 15

Top British & Irish politicians meet at Union Society [3.4]

1984 09 27

A bar 'unique to Cambridge' is the claim made for J. Millars on Newnham Road. It is not a wine bar or a cocktail bar. When the Chinese beer ran out they tracked down an alternative in Brighton. Apart from tsing tsio they have beers from Germany, Czechoslovakia and Holland and claim to offer the widest range of import beers, liquors and spirits outside London. They offer all-day faculties for business conferences and hold wedding receptions. 84 09 27

1984 11 16

Conferences only organised on commercial basis 10 years ago, last year £6,009,258 [3.5]

1985 04 18

The new high-tech development on Castle Hill will include full secretarial back-up facilities, a gymnasium, squash courts, restaurant and overnight accommodation. Conference rooms and access to an underground car park will also be available to those who rent rooms. The 'village' will be self-contained and will appeal to people like university lecturers who might also be a consultant and needs his own space. Rents will be 25 percent less than average in central Cambridge 85 04 18

1985 04 20

South Cambridgeshire ratepayers can be assured there are no frills or trimmings in the new £2 million council headquarters on Hills Road. The new base is an energy-saving building which will be workmanlike and maintenance-free. There is an air-conditioned council chamber with video facilities that may be rented out for conferences. Bullet-proof glass will increase security. The idea of moving out into a village was rejected as Cambridge was felt to be a central point. But car parking is likely to be a problem with 105 spaces for the 200 staff many of whom will have to park in the streets when councillors are meeting 85 04 20

1985 05 29

Castle Park, the £10 million high-tech development on County Council land next to Shire Hall has been inaugurated. It offers 'thinking space' to scientists and academics involved in research and development of high-technology ideas. The project will be fully self-contained with its own conference facilities, restaurant, gymnasium, squash courts and overnight accommodation as well as centrally available office equipment and secretarial support. A key attribute is its location in the heart of the city close to many of the University's colleges. 85 05 29b

1986 11 17

Plan for international conferences up to 1450 people using Corn Exchange & University buildings behind [3.6]

1986 11 26

The Corn Exchange, Cambridge's new entertainment and conference complex, has opened after years of political wrangling. The four wall shell used for pop concerts, roller skating and badminton has been developed into an auditorium with stage and versatile seating together with a tiered balcony and mezzanine terrace that can be used for a variety of purposes. At the back are changing rooms, dressing rooms and workshops while the King Room upstairs will be available for private functions 86 11 26d & e

1988 06 23

George Hales, retiring head bulldog of Trinity, once ticked off Prince Charles for riding his bike in the college. For the last eight years he has been responsible for 20 staff and almost 500 college rooms with 60 business conferences each year. He has been the butt of practical jokes. When England won the world cup students released 30 white rabbits through Queen's Gate on to the Great Court. It took until 2am to capture them all. He is renowned for his gargantuan memory and is passing on important details to his successor 88 06 23b

1989 01 12

The University Arms Hotel has been owned by the Bradford family for almost a century and its sale marks the end of an era. Opened in 1834, the original hotel was a three-storey building with just 15 bedrooms. It was bought by Marcus Bradford in 1891 and rebuilt, with a further extension in 1925, then substantially modernised in the 1960s and 70s. It was the first hotel in Cambridge to install electric lighting, and the first heating system was installed in 1900 when there was also 'telephonic communication with all parts of the United Kingdom'. Today it has 115 bedrooms, a restaurant for up to 250 people, several bars and conference rooms. 89 01 12b

1989 02 22

The Cambridge bedmaker might be an endangered species. Many potential bedders are being wooed by supermarket and 'Yuppie' couples prepared to pay above-average rates for a suitable cleaner. There are almost permanent advertisements but they attract fewer applicants. The standard rate is £2.75 an hour, around 50p less than that offered privately. Bedmakers usually work a 20-hour week but with the current shortages many take on more hours. But there are bonuses during the conference season and regular chats with the fellows make the job different each day 89 02 22a & b

1989 09 21

Cambridge Arts Theatre is to launch an appeal to replace its 650 aging and tatty seats, worn carpets and poor ventilation system. Despite artistic success it has financial problems. Even when a show is a roaring success and playing to packed houses, the theatre makes a £3,000 loss. The problem is worse when operas are performed as a full orchestra reduces seating capacity from 650 to 580. Small profits from catering services, costume-hire and renting out the building for conferences only makes a dent in the overall loss. 89 09 21

1990 03 30

Speaking at the Koenigswinter conference at St Catherine's College, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher spelled out her vision for the future of Europe. Britain and Germany did not yet see eye-to-

eye on the future of Europe and was not ready to withdraw all its troops. Nato should continue to have nuclear weapons based there. German Chancellor, Dr Helmut Kohl said he would press for faster progress towards political union in the Community. 90 03 30a